



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

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New USAID Project - Interethnic Integration in Education

The Interethnic Integration in Education Project is a 4 year, \$5.2 million initiative that is co-financed by USAID and the U.S. European Command, which will work with all relevant educational stakeholders in support of the Government of Macedonia's efforts for ethnic integration. The Project will build awareness and provide diversity training, technical assistance, and incentives to school boards, principals, teachers, and administration officials.

"Our motto at European Command is 'Stronger Together,' Said Rear Admiral John G. Messerschmidt, currently visiting Macedonia. "I think that this is appropriately fitting, given the nature of our assistance. Providing aid to our friends and allies through programs like this is one way we build and strengthen enduring partnerships."

"I'm pleased to be here today at this very important event, and to have the opportunity to reiterate the ongoing support and commitment of the U.S. Mission in Skopje to greater interethnic harmony and understanding in Macedonia," said U.S. Chargé d' Affaires, Brian Aggeler. "My colleagues at the U.S. Embassy and throughout the international community in Skopje have been deeply saddened and concerned by the violent events of the past week. These criminal acts have no place in a free society and must be punished in accordance with the law. They underline the urgent need for projects precisely such as this one which promote interethnic harmony in Macedonia."

The Project will be implemented through inter-related components: Community Outreach, Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers, Demonstration Schools, and Provision of Incentives to Schools and Communities.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is working with the people of Macedonia to create jobs, strengthen democratic institutions and practices, enhance integrated education, and prepare students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov> or our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/USAIDMacedonia>